

TYPHOON SKIP (24W)

The first of two significant tropical cyclones to develop during November, Skip was a classic "straight runner" that covered over 2,000 nm (3,704 km) during its ten day lifetime. This typhoon was especially damaging to the Philippine Islands because it followed close behind Typhoons Ruby (23W) and Tess (25W).

On the first of November the northeast monsoon was well established across the South China Sea and southeastern Asia. Easterly tradewinds dominated the Philippine Sea north of the near-equatorial trough and a disturbance, that was to become Typhoon Tess (25W), was bringing more rain and wind to the central Philippine Islands. The next day Skip began as

an area of convection in the monsoon trough about 360 nm (667 km) southwest of the island of Guam. After the convection had persisted for a day, the disturbance was listed on the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory at 030600Z. Visual satellite imagery indicated a well defined low-level cyclonic circulation immediately west of the curved band of convection (Figure 3-24-1). A satellite intensity analysis estimate of 30 kt (15 m/sec) surface winds precipitated the first Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert at 030700Z. The disturbance continued to develop and moved out of the Alert box, necessitating the issuance of a second Alert at 031400Z. Four hours later, after a satellite intensity estimate of 35 kt (18 m/sec),

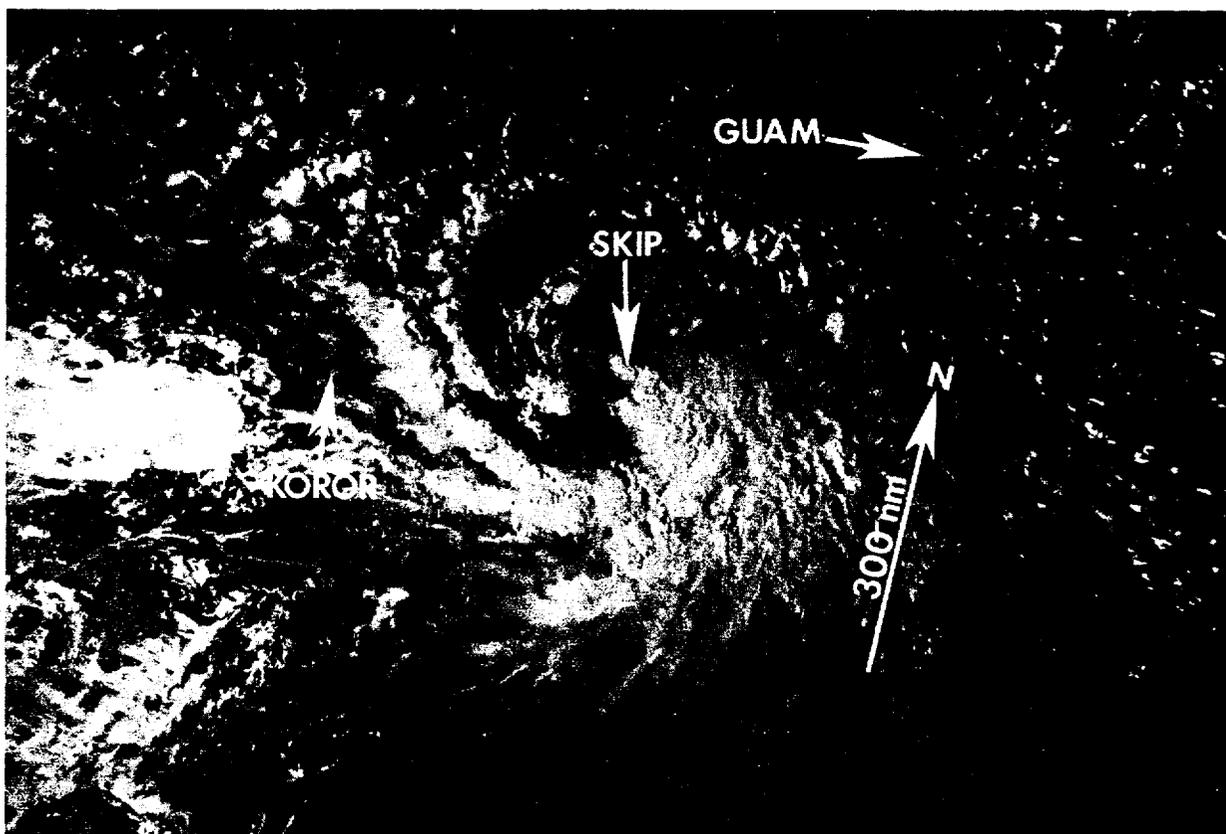


Figure 3-24-1. Skip, shortly before the first Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (030642Z November NOAA visual imagery).

the first warning was issued. Skip (Figure 3-24-2) tracked westward and intensified, peaking in intensity at 125 kt (64 m/sec) at 060600Z.

As the typhoon approached the central Philippine Islands, it began to weaken and accelerate. The tropical cyclone reached a forward speed of 21 kt (39 km/hr), as it tracked across the island of Mindoro. The typhoon's trek through the Philippine Islands caused significant damage and loss of life. At least 104 people were killed by mudslides, floods and flying debris and another 95 persons were listed as missing. In all, Skip left over 600,000 homeless, caused extensive damage to coconut,

rice and sugar crops, and widespread disruption of power and communication lines. Numerous watercraft were reported lost, missing or aground.

After weakening over the Philippine Islands, Skip slowed as it entered the South China Sea at 071800Z. During the next four days, Skip pushed west-northwestward along the southern side of the narrow subtropical ridge. At 100600Z the typhoon was downgraded to a tropical storm and further weakening led to the final warning at 110000Z. The remnants of Skip (Figure 3-24-3) drifted into the Gulf of Tonkin and dissipated.

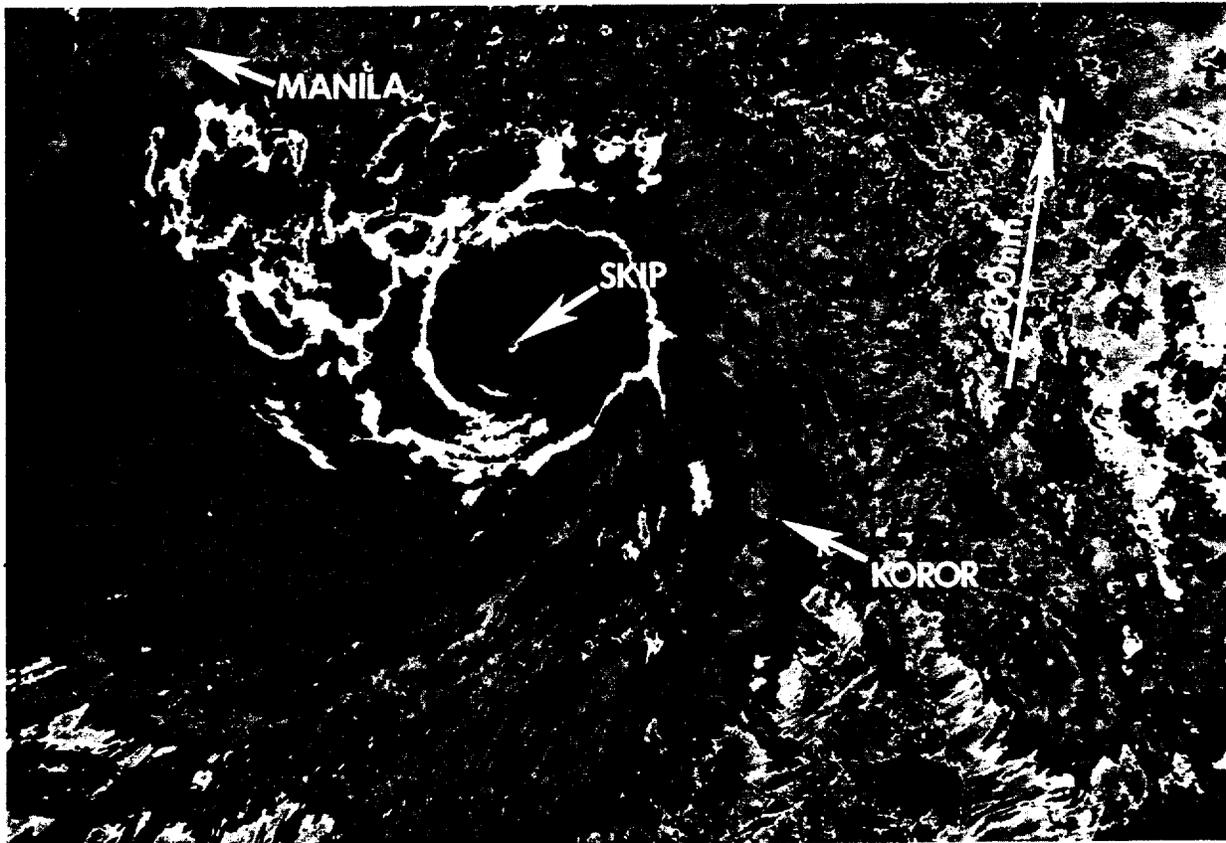


Figure 3-24-2. Typhoon Skip at peak intensity. Note the eye feature and symmetry of deep convection (061041Z November NOAA infrared imagery).

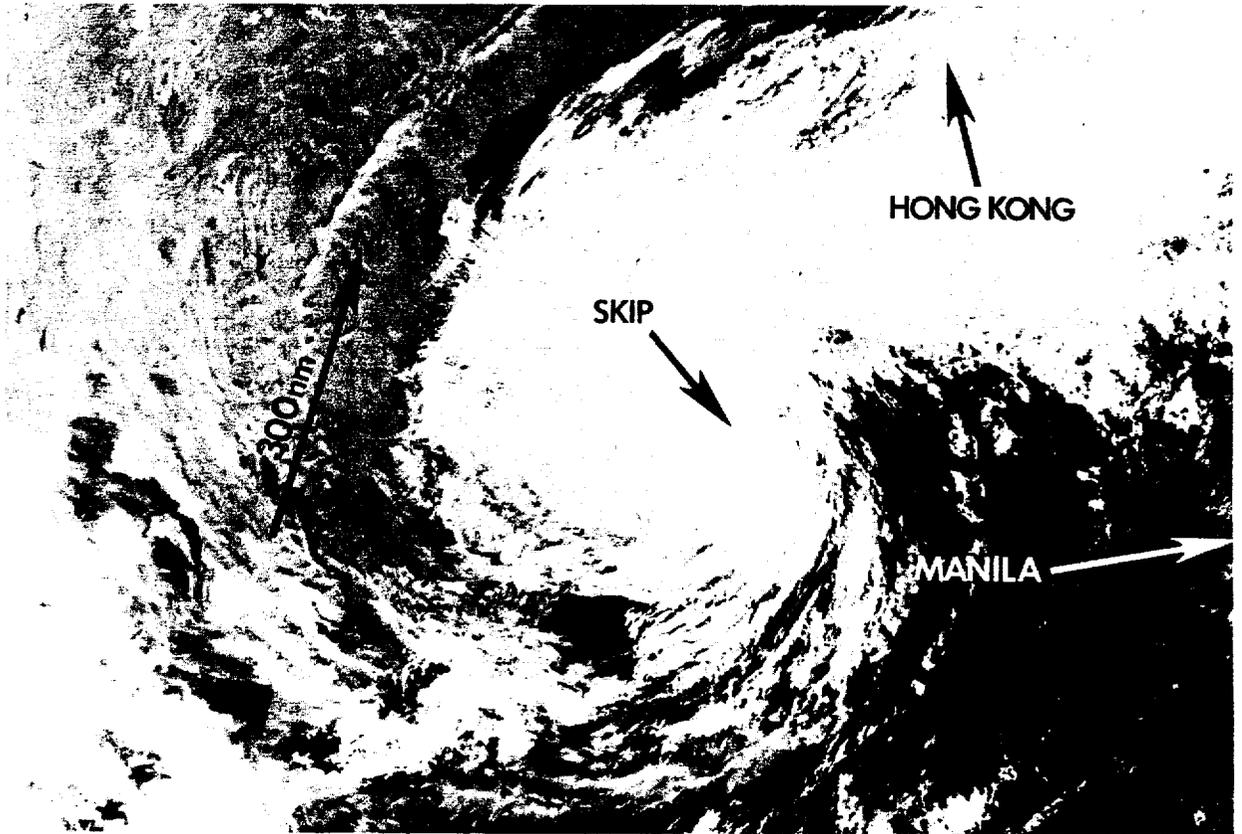


Figure 3-24-3. Skip maintains its organization, shortly after the final warning was issued (110157Z November DMSP visual imagery).